

EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP

COUNSELLORS AT LAW

since 1894

Deming E. Sherman

Direct Dial: (401) 276-6443

Direct Fax: (888) 325-9061

E-Mail: dsherman@ealaw.com

2800 BANKBOSTON PLAZA
PROVIDENCE, RI 02903-2499
(401) 274-9200
FAX (401) 276-6611

33944

Site:	Centredale
Break:	11.7
Other:	

March 3, 2000

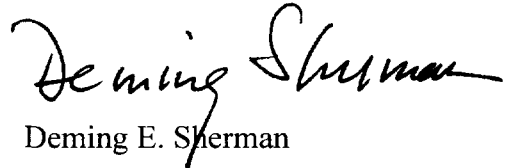
Sharon Fennelly, Enforcement Coordinator
Site Evaluation and Response Section II
Office of Site Remediation & Restoration
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
One Congress Street, Suite 1100, Mail Code HBR
Boston, MA 02114-2023

RE: Centredale Manor Superfund Site, North Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Ms. Fennelly:

Enclosed is the response of New England Container Co, Inc. to the EPA's request for information dated January 20, 2000.

Sincerely,


Deming E. Sherman

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Eugene D'Onofrio

March 3, 2000

Sharon Fennelly, Enforcement Coordinator
Site Evaluation and Response Section II
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Site Remediation & Restoration
One Congress Street, Suite 1100, Mail Code HBR
Boston, MA 02114-2023

**Re: Responses to Request dated January 20, 2000 for Information Pursuant to
Section 104 of CERCLA for the Centredale Manor Restoration Project
Superfund Site, North Providence, Rhode Island**

Dear Ms. Fennelly:

New England Container Co., Inc. ("NEC") responds to the 104(e) Request as follows:

1. General

- a. Describe the riverbank on the west side of the Site between 1952 and 1969 (including but not limited to pipes and scum on the riverbank, if applicable).
- b. Describe the tail race on the east side of the Site between 1952 and 1969 (including but not limited to the color of the water located in the tailrace).
- c. Describe the area of the Site where New England Container Company, Inc., operated between 1952 and 1969 (including but not limited to stockpiling of drums and waste disposal activities, if applicable).
- d. Describe the area of the Site south of where New England Container Company, Inc., operated between 1952 and 1969 (including but not limited to stockpiling of drums and waste disposal activities, if applicable).
- e. Describe the Woonasquatucket River located adjacent and/or down stream from the Site between 1952 and 1969 (including but not limited to the color of the River and the presence of drums, if applicable).
- f. Describe the 55-gallon drums located at the Site between 1952 and 1969 (including but not limited to the number of drums, where each drum was located, what each drum contained).

- g. Did anyone dispose of material (including but not limited to 55-gallon drums and/or of material, if applicable) at the Site between 1952 and 1962? If your answer is anything other than an unequivocal "no", describe the disposal (including but not limited to the amount of material being disposed, the method of disposal, the names of the persons and/or companies disposing of material, the chemical and brand names of the materials being disposed, whether or not the materials were hazardous).

RESPONSE:

There is no one presently employed by NEC who has any personal knowledge about the operations of New England Container Co., Inc. at the Site. NEC did conduct operations at a portion of the Site from approximately 1952 to 1969. NEC has no records relating to those operations. NEC relies for all these responses on Vincent J. Buonanno, a former officer of NEC, who has previously responded to the EPA's questions and who has been a source of information for NEC. Previous responses of NEC and Mr. Buonanno are incorporated by reference. Mr. Buonanno was only at the Site from 1967 to 1969 and was not in a managerial position at that time.

- a) The riverbank was nondescript, with no outstanding characteristics. The river bed ran dry from time to time, especially in summer. There were no pipes from NEC into the river.**
- b) There was nothing distinguishing about tail race or the color of its water.**
- c) There were no waste disposal activities by NEC at the Site. NEC occupied a small portion of the Site. NEC consisted of a few old buildings, mostly wood frame with cement floors, rather low rise, with wooden eaves in the ceilings. There was a concrete block addition on the south side of the facility that was built in the 1950s to accommodate some drum metal-working equipment. The manager's office was attached and was about 2,000 square feet in size. There were some empty drums stored outside by NEC immediately adjacent to its buildings, probably several hundred at a time, that were constantly being recycled. NEC's production was about 100-200 drums per day. The property owned and managed by Metro-Atlantic was on all sides of NEC. NEC's buildings were leased from Metro-Atlantic. There were no fences or clear property lines. Metro-Atlantic used the land south of NEC for storage of trucks with drums, and some empty drums belonging to Metro (not NEC). Also, Metro-Atlantic stored obsolete machinery there.**
- d) See c.**
- e) No distinguishing features.**
- f) See c. The production of NEC at that time was primarily drums received from Metro-Atlantic which had contained mostly resins, water repellants and soaps.**

g) Not to our knowledge.

2. Operations-New England Container Company, Inc.

- a. Identify the person who was responsible at the New England Container Company, Inc., between 1952 and 1969 for compliance with local, state and federal environmental regulations (including but not limited to the signing of any forms required by local, state and federal government).
- b. Identify the person who designed the operations at the New England Container Company, Inc., between 1952 and 1969.
- c. Were any changes made to any part of the operations at the New England Container Company, Inc., between 1952 and 1969? If so, describe those changes in detail.
- d. Identify the person who was responsible for maintaining and/or securing the grounds occupied by New England Container Company, Inc., at the Site between 1952 and 1969. Describe the maintenance and/or security duties of that person and identify his/her supervisor.
- e. How many employees worked at the New England Container Company, Inc., facility located at the Site between 1952 and 1969? Identify (see definitions) each and every employee who worked at the New England Container Company, Inc., facility located at the Site between 1952 and 1969, provide a description of the job duties of each and every employee, and state the years each any every employee worked at the New England Container Company, Inc., facility.
- f. Describe the current location of any documents related to the operations of the New England Container Company, Inc., between 1952 and 1969. If any documents related to the operations of the New England Container Company, Inc., between 1952 and 1969 have been disposed of, identify the location and method of disposal.
- g. For every drum obtained by the New England Container Company, Inc., between 1952 and 1969:
 - i. Identify (see Definitions) the source of the drum (including but not limited to DuPont, Monsanto, Merck and/or Hercules, if applicable);
 - ii. Describe the drum in detail:
 - (1) the condition of the drum (e.g. open, closed, sealed, damaged, new, used, etc.);
 - (2) the color of the drum;
 - (3) any distinctive stripes or other marking on the drum; and
 - (4) any labels or writing on the drum (including the content of those labels or writing).
 - iii. Describe in detail how the drum was transported to the Site:

- (1) Identify (see Definitions) all persons (including but not limited to Respondent's employees) who may have taken or accompanied drums to the Site;
- (2) Describe the vehicles used to transport drums, including but not limited to:
 - A. type of vehicles (e.g. tanker, flatbed, etc.);
 - B. the color(s);
 - C. the owner (including but not limited to Respondent, if applicable);
 - D. distinctive markings (e.g. company names, logo); and
 - E. number(s) of each type of vehicle.
- iv. State whether the drum was purchased by New England Container Company, Inc. If so, identify (see Definitions) the source from which New England Container Company, Inc., purchased the drum and state how much New England Container Company paid for the drum;
- v. State whether New England Container Company, Inc. was paid to recycle the drum. If so, identify (see Definitions) the person or company who paid New England Container Company, Inc., to recycle the drum and state how much that person paid to have the drum recycled; and
- vi. Describe in detail any material contained in the drum when it arrived at the Site (e.g., amount, chemical name, brand name, color, weight, odor).
- h. For each year New England Container Company, Inc., operated between 1952 and 1969, state the number of drums it unsuccessfully attempted to recycle.
- i. For each year New England Container Company, Inc., operated between 1952 and 1969, state the number of drums stockpiled at the Site by New England Container Company, Inc. Also, identify the number of stockpiled drums which were completely empty and the number of stockpiled drums containing any material whatsoever.
- j. For each year New England Container Company, Inc., operated between 1952 and 1969, state the number of drums stockpiled at the Site by Atlantic Chemical Company, Inc. (later known as Metro-Atlantic, Inc.). Also, identify the number of stockpiled drums which were completely empty and the number of stockpiled drums containing any material whatsoever.
- k. Describe the duties of Christopher Del Sesto, Eustace T. Pliakas and Francis Maguire at the New England Container Company, Inc., between 1952 and 1969.

RESPONSE:

- a) No one in that position to our knowledge.
- b) Frank Mancini (deceased).
- c) Not to our knowledge.
- d) Frank Mancini (deceased).
- e) About 10 employees (other than Vincent J. Buonanno). John Mikucki - plant manager; Earl Taylor; Wilfred Suborin; Zealous Brown; Mitchell Jolly - they were laborers (all deceased).
- f) None.
- g) NEC does not have records that would enable it to answer this question. Most of the drums (about 90%) came from Metro-Atlantic. Metro-Atlantic bought materials from major chemical companies, Monsanto, Dupont and Hercules. The drums obtained from Metro-Atlantic were empty and were transported on yard trucks from Metro-Atlantic to NEC. Drums were either purchased by NEC or were recycled for Metro-Atlantic for a laundering fee.
- h) NEC does not have records that would enable it to answer this question.
- i) See c.
- j) Several hundred empty drums.
- k) None. They may have provided legal services to NEC at various times.

5. **Insurance**

- a. Provide copies of all liability insurance policies held by New England Container Company, Inc., each year from 1952 to 1969. In lieu of providing copies, you may provide the following information:
 - i. the name and address of each insurer and of the insured;
 - ii. the amount of coverage under each policy;
 - iii. the commencement and expiration dates for each policy;
 - iv. whether or not the policy contains a "pollution exclusion" clause; and
 - v. whether or not the policy covers sudden, non-sudden or both types of accidents.

RESPONSE:

- a) NEC does not have copies of applicable policies. NEC has requested copies of any applicable policies from the successor to its insurance agent/broker,

AON Risk Services. NEC also has notified its CGL carrier during the 1950s and 1960s, Aetna Casualty and Surety Company (now Travelers) of the potential claim of the EPA and has requested Travelers to locate and send to NEC copies of the policies and coverage endorsements. NEC has not yet received any insurance documents and, therefore, does not know the coverage limits or the terms of coverage. At this time, Travelers has issued a reservation of rights.

6. Follow-Up Regarding March 19, 1999, Response

- a. Provide more detail in response to questions 3.a and u. In particular, provide schematic diagrams or flow charts of each recycling process at the Site, and describe each and every step of drum recycling at the Site by New England Container Company, Inc., from the time the drum arrived at the Site in used condition to the time the drum left the Site in recycled condition. Specifically, describe (if applicable):
 - i. The unloading of used drums brought to the Site (including but not limited to the method/equipment used for unloading, the location in which the drums were unloaded and the disposal of any residual materials in the drums during unloading);
 - ii. The stockpiling of used drums (including but not limited to the location of the stockpiles, the appearance of each stockpile and the disposal of any residual materials in the drums during the stockpiling process);
 - iii. The movement of drums from each stockpile to the furnace area (including but not limited to the method/equipment used to move the drums and the disposal of any residual materials in the drums during this movement);
 - iv. The placement of drums in a furnace (including but not limited to a description of what happened to any residual materials in the drums at the time they were placed in the furnace or on any conveyer belt leading to the furnace);
 - v. The heating of the drums in a furnace (including but not limited to the heat source used, a description of any explosions which ever occurred when a used drum was placed in the furnace, and the method used to remove furnace ash from the furnace);
 - vi. The retrieval of the drums from a furnace (including but not limited to the method used to remove furnace ash from the drums);
 - vii. The cooling of the drums once they left any furnace;
 - viii. The role of shotblasting with steel shot in the recycling process;
 - ix. The use of caustic soda in the recycling process;
 - x. The painting of drums (including but not limited to a description of the fate of any waste paint from painting operations);
 - xi. The leak-testing of drums; and

- xii. The fate of any drums which were not successfully recycled at any point in the process.
- b. Define the term "RCRA empty" which Respondent used in its March 19, 1999, response to EPA Information Request question 1.f.
- c. In Respondent's March 19, 1999, response to EPA's Information Request, did Respondent use the terms "RCRA empty" and "empty" interchangeably? If so, in what portion(s) of the response?

RESPONSE:

- a) **The unloading of empty steel drums was done off small trucks - about 50 to 100 per truck which were stacked two or three high on the truck. Empty drums were unloaded for processing or for some short-term storage outdoors. Empty drums were received primarily from Metro-Atlantic. The first operation for open-head drums was a drum furnace with a walking beam conveyer through it. The next operation was steel shot blasting of interior and exterior of the drum, which was followed by a series of straightening and rolling operations to restore the roundness of the container. After leak detection, the drum was recoated on the interior and exterior through a series of spray painting and oven-curing operations. The drum was refitted with a cover and ring for final shipment. Closed head drums or bung type drums which had non-removable heads were washed on the interior and exterior (instead of furnaced) in a caustic wash bath. After steaming and draining, drums were dedented by air pressure, leak detected, steel shot blasted, and then recoated on the exterior and oven cured. Drums that were not successfully recycled were removed as steel scrap. The designation of uselessness was determined after cleaning and leak detecting, and thereafter clean scrap was delivered to local scrap yards.**
- b) **A drum is "RCRA empty" if all pourable, removable liquid is taken out. See RCRA regulations. RCRA did not exist before 1980, and, therefore, the term has no application to operations of NEC prior to 1969.**
- c) **The drums received by NEC prior to 1969 were empty steel drums. "RCRA empty" is the current phrase describing drums received by NEC. RCRA did not exist prior to 1969 and the term had no meaning at that time.**

7. Information About Others

- a. If not already included in your response, if you have reason to believe that there may be persons, including persons currently or formerly employed by Respondent, who are able to provide a more detailed or complete response to any of these questions or who may be able to provide additional responsive documents, identify such persons and the additional information or documents that they may have.
- b. Provide the current address and telephone number of Larry Bello and Gerry Zeoli (see your March 19, 1999, response to question 5.b of EPA's Information Request).
- c. Identify any person who was asked to provide information to Centerdale Manor Associates Limited Partnership and/or Brook Village Associates Limited Partnership regarding operations at the Site by Atlantic Chemical Company, Inc. (later known as Metro-Atlantic, Inc.) and/or New England Container Company, Inc. State when information was provided and summarize the information provided.

RESPONSE:

- a) **NEC does not know of any persons other than those previously disclosed to the EPA who are able to give any more detailed information.**
- b) **Larry Bello - 27 Leslie Drive, Providence, RI 02908, tel. no. 274-6938;
Jerry Zeoli - 11 Mongone Drive, Johnston, RI 02919, tel. no. 944-3043.**
- c) **None to our knowledge.**

7. Compliance with This Request

- a. Describe all sources reviewed or consulted in responding to this request, including but not limited to:
 - i. the names of all individuals consulted;
 - ii. the current job title and job description of each individual consulted;
 - iii. the job title and job description during the period being investigated of each individual consulted;
 - iv. whether each individual consulted is a current or past employee of Respondent;
 - v. the names of all divisions or offices of Respondent for which records were reviewed;
 - vi. the nature of all documents reviewed; and
 - vii. the locations where those documents reviewed were kept prior to review; and

viii. the location where those documents reviewed are currently kept.

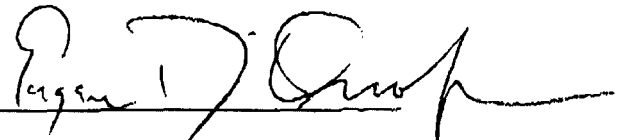
RESPONSE:

- i - iv. Vincent J. Buonanno, previously identified.
- v. No documents other than those previously supplied were consulted.
- vi - viii. None.

I declare under penalty of perjury that I am authorized to respond on behalf of Respondent New England Container, Co. Inc., and that the foregoing is complete, true, and correct.

**NEW ENGLAND CONTAINER
CO., INC.**

By


Eugene D'ONOFRIO
VP Finance

Executed on March 3, 2000